

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 8:18 a.m. Present for today's meeting were Commissioner Falstad Vice-Chairman Bluemke and Commissioner Schoepke. Secretary Richards was not present. Others present: Val Ramos, Airport Administration; Keith Markano, Airport Manager; Kurt Stanich, Airport Operations Assistant; Druanne Cryer, PlaneSafe; Samuel Cryer, Plane Safe Aircraft Maintenance; Urban Meloche, Hangar Owner; Harry Becker, Atlantic Aviation; Dan Dupar, Spring City Aviation; Patricia Horn, Hangar renter; Dave Broadfoot, Hangar Owner; Dave Leikam, Pilot; Ron Hutchinson, Hangar Owner; Andrew Groth, Control Tower; Dennis Mohr, Hangar Owner; Eric Severson, Waukesha Sheriff Dept; Tom Farley, Corporation Counsel; Ellen Nowak, County Executive's Office; Steve Betzler, AOPA Airport Support/Hangar Owner; Paul Keppeler, Hangar Owner; Bryan Schwichtenberg, EAA1177 Treasurer; Marc DeVillers, Flight for Life; Ray Perry, Hangar tenant; and Vince Masterson, Waukesha County.

Chairman Crowley said the reason for the late start of today's meeting was the late posting of the agenda on the County website. He also commented that today's agenda was rather brief and that most of those present were here because of a certain agenda item and probably interested in speaking and learning more about what is out there, and we do have representatives from County staff and County Administration present. In addition, I plan to make a brief statement and our Airport Manager Keith Markano will update you on where we are. We still have an agenda item that we need to address before we get moving on this, so we will go to item one of today's agenda.

Approve/modify meeting minutes of January 13, 2010 – A motion to approve the January 13, 2010 minutes was made by Commissioner Falstad with a second by Commissioner Schoepke. The motion passed.

Manager's report – Chairman Crowley said the Commission has been updated on where the Work Study group stands and we will learn more about this today and asked Mr. Markano to address the meeting.

Back in 1995 the County created a Public Works select committee to evaluate a broad range of County services and functions and to determine if it was possible to reorganize some of those functions and to enhance contract and fiscal management in certain departments and to improve the way the services were delivered to the County. On August 25, 1995, the County Public Works select committee submitted to then County Executive Daniel Finley the report on reorganization of County Departments. This report was the basis for the creation of the Public Works Department and the Department of Parks and Land Use the way they are today. In the recommendations, the Committee concluded that the airport is functioning well under its current structure and no recommendations will be made at that time to change that function but in the future, they should reevaluate it. As part of the County Executive budget for this year, it was thought to be a prudent time to look at reevaluating the structure. An Airport Organizational Work Study Group (AOWSG) was formed with an initial meeting being held on February 5, 2010. The work group consists of Commissioner/Supervisor Falstad, Chairman Crowley, myself, County Board Supervisor Swan, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Corporation Counsel Thomas Farley, Ellen Nowak, County Executive Chief of Staff, Director of Parks and Land Use Dale Shaver and Vince Masterson, Budget Analyst of the Department of Administration Budget. The scope of the AOWSG include five topics: 1) overview of the airport; 2) statutory requirements relating to County airports; 3) review of the 1995 study; 4) analysis of the organizational opportunities that may be available; and 5) organizational recommendations will finally come out of the work group's efforts. The first meeting covered the first two items, history of the airport and overview of the 1995 Public Works select committee. At the second meeting on February 19th, the 1995 report was reviewed more in depth and additionally analysis of the reorganizational opportunities began and the AOWSG started looking at that. There were three organizational options that were identified for the airport: 1) leave the function as is with the Airport commission; 2) create a new department; or 3) place the function in an existing administrative department. After preliminary discussions there appeared to be a consensus among everyone in the work group that creating a new department would not be an effective option; to create a completely new bureaucracy just for the airport was not in the best interest of the County, the airport or the users of the airport. In addition, in further discussion there was nothing in option three, putting it under an existing department, which would preclude it from having an Airport Commission. We went from that to listing the essential elements of an Airport Commission, what would be required, and what the Airport Commission would do. It advocates for the airport services, it is comprised of interested and informal individuals/users of the airport with citizen representation from the neighborhood; much as it is now with Chairman Crowley. It acts as a forum to hear public comment and concern regarding airport operations, focuses on development of the facility as an economic engine by promoting enhanced corporate use, moving on with marketing efforts, provides input to staff, reviews and comments on the airport master plan. So the Commission would still have input on the master plan process when we get into that in 2012. Provides input to annual capital and operating

budget process with the goal still of making the airport as self sustaining as possible. The work group came to a consensus that those were the essential elements of what was needed for the Airport Commission. We also came to a consensus at that meeting to do away with option 2, creating a new department. The work group also concluded that with option three there would be an Airport commission. Therefore, the Airport Commission would still be in effect under option three. The work group talked about what some of the enhancements would be and there could be some synergies with the day-to-day operations with other county departments, such as Highway, Parks and Land Use, engineering and making better use of some of those staff lines. The next meeting is scheduled for this Friday, March 12th. The outcome of the last meeting was that we had to take a better look at options one and three and specifically detail the pros and cons of both options and that is where we are today.

Chairman Crowley thanked Mr. Markano for the brief background and update of the work group. Chairman Crowley said he wanted to make it clear that the Commission was aware of all of this but that the public may not. There was a rumor that the County was working to disband the Airport Commission, as it exists today, that is strictly a rumor. As Mr. Markano mentioned there is not a plan to disband the Commission, the Commission will continue to stay intact. What is at issue here is how the work group can identify potential efficiencies working within the County organizations and still maintain having an Airport Commission with the abilities it has today, and the resources and in some fashion the power to remain somewhat separate to stay clear of political influence. Our best interest as a Commission is to support, maintain and sustain the airport users, pilots and the tenants and that is our number one priority besides safety-to operate a safe airport. So the rumor of disbanding or dissolution of the Airport Commission is false and perhaps that is why many of you are here today thinking that is what was going to be discussed at this meeting. As Airport Commission Chairman, the County Executive requested that I serve on this work group. We also have Commissioner Falstad, who is also a County Board Supervisor, as our work group Chairperson. We also have another County Board Supervisor on the work group that is working in the best interest of the County, the airport and the Commission. I hope this clears things up a bit for everyone.

Chairman Crowley said he would like to ask Tom Farley of Corporation Counsel to give a brief background of the airport. Crowley said that former airport commission chairman Ray Perry was also in the audience and stated that both Perry and Farley have quite a bit of history going back to when the Airport Commission was formed. Chairman Crowley said they talked about this in the work group and the accomplishments of the Airport Commission to improve and develop the airport to what and where it is today. Who could have ever thought we would be sitting here today, in this building, and have the expansion of hangars and more use of the airport for private, public and recreational aviation. Who would have thought we would be here today compared to what it was like when the Commission was first formed and where we had to get. There is a lot of background to share and I am sure many of you are here would like to share with us. I ask that when the meeting is open for public comment you limit your comments to a minimum of two to three minutes per person.

Chairman Crowley asked Tom Farley to address the meeting. Mr. Farley commented how lucky that former airport commissioners Ray Perry and Dave Broadfoot were in the audience today because they are the ones that have taken this airport from what it was to what it is today. In 1991, the airport was a division of the Highway department and it was not a favored child of that operation. In the late 80's and early 90's County Board Supervisor Dan Finley was looking around county government and determining what it was he would like to run if he were in charge, and ultimately he was elected County Executive and took office in 1991 and was in charge of the County. He looked at consolidation of the departments and of the operations because the priority setting function was disparate at that time and he wanted to consolidate because he felt that would run the government more efficiently. There were two huge reorganizations in County government that brought together the new Department of Public Works and new Department of Parks and Land Use. Moreover, as part of those studies there was the realization that the airport was not functioning in the best way that it could. So in 1991 or maybe the ordinance was passed in early 1992, an airport commission was determined to be organized to bring business and private sector knowledge and experience to the operation of the airport. That airport commission was established with limited authority in that it had no independent authority to contract or any independent authority to do anything without the approval and authorization of the County Board. As it functioned, it became obvious that this was the path to future success. Which I have to tell you in 1992 nobody could have expected what we have here today, and we talked about that at the organizational meetings. At that time, the County Executive said that is just not the time to make it part of some type of reorganization and some type of consolidation with the Commission just getting started. Again, in 1995, they said the Commission was just getting going. The tax levy, which was always the focus of the Commission to reduce that tax levy, to hopefully give it some self-sufficiency, was operating well. The tax levy was not rising dramatically, there were functions that were being transferred off the tax levy, things were going very well, and the Commission had just gotten started in 1995 so that organizational study said let's let them go for a while. We do understand, even

then, that this is the County Airport, everything that happens here is subject to the control and approval of the County Board and County Executive, and it always has been and probably always will be. And, that the reporting that became a direct report to the County Executive may not always be required, but for the time being, that was going to continue. So even though the recommendation was that there could be synergies that would occur if it were within a department that was not a direct report (to the County Executive); and it could rely on another set of eyes with some understanding of how a transportation facility functions, needs of transportation facility and some of the resources that are available for transportation that would be within the Public Works department exist; they were still going to leave it kind of a direct report to the County Executive.

There has never been and I do not think there ever will be any intent to radically alter or change the function of the Commission; it has been so successful that it would be foolish to do that. But I do think it is likely the direct report will come through the Transportation Department. That has some sense and merging the of the transportation function of the County with the airport reporting function and seeing if there are some synergies and some other efficiencies that could be realized through that other set of eyes that will be watching in addition to all the ones that are watching now; it is likely to occur.

So, I think that there is a misperception, if there is any assumption, that there is any dissatisfaction with the Commission and that it does not operate properly and that the Commission is not going to continue to operate. But I do think there is going to be a change or likely to be a change and at least I feel the County Board and County Executive have felt that the success needs to continue and then we are going to see if there are other ways that there could be some efficiencies and some savings. I think that any business continuously takes a look at itself and tries to make sure that its money, its services, its operations and its resources flow efficiently and I think that it is conceivable and even likely, that the flow of money, its operations and the reporting is going to all be placed in one transportation function. Which, should have little or I don't think have any direct effect on the way the Airport operates other than to have maybe Highway Department crews filling cracks as opposed to independent or outside contractors if it becomes more efficient. I am only using this as an example that may or may be something that will work. It is these kinds of things that need to be looked at and what they would provide. So that is a little of the history of where I think this is going and what I think is likely to occur.

Chairman Crowley thanked Mr. Farley. Chairman Crowley said this Friday, March 12th there will be another work group organizational review meeting and that they are about 75% of the way through this process. An ongoing document is being edited as we move forward by Parks and Land Use Director Dale Shaver. This document will most likely be presented to the County Executive for approval. Recommendations are for option three, place the airport in an existing administrative department, that being Dept. of Public Works. Chairman Crowley and Commissioner Falstad feel the group is working too quickly on this; they would like more time to go over this with the Commission and to share comments and concerns from the tenants and pilots with the work group.

Commissioner Bluemke thinks it is a mistake for this to happen, to have airport management and staff controlled by another department. There is more information needed on this to understand how this would work under another department.

Chairman Crowley read the functions of the airport commission under Chapter 9 of the County Code. It is different from 114 (state statute) in that contractual approval is conducted by the County Board; the commission can only recommend, no authority for approval is granted under the ordinance.

Commissioner Bluemke-The airport functions very well without ultimate authority. Being part of another department, this would be lost; responsibility and governance would not be the same. He said synergies might help but not for the management of the airport.

Commissioner Schoepke-Checks and balances-The Commission analyzes and makes recommendations. It makes sense to enhance communications and open up County resources and for the staff to utilize these with the County, if this will offer to make the airport more efficient and save costs.

Commissioner Falstad-A forum for input is necessary for this.

Chairman Crowley-What is the airport gaining from making a change to go under control of another department. The airport has made progress continually to reduce the tax levy. Chairman Crowley said Commissioner Richards has been out of state and is waiting to hear his comments.

Commissioner Bluemke-The goal should be at looking how reducing airport costs can be done.

Chairman Crowley-The County Executive and County Board are supportive of the airport.

At this time, Chairman Crowley opened the meeting to public comment. (Attached)

Airport Manager's Report Continued – Mr. Markano said all general aviation airports must comply with a requirement for submitting a based aircraft report. This has now gone online through a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) and FAA. The airport staff, our Bureau of Aeronautics Project Manager Andy Trimble, Mead & Hunt Project Engineer Greg Stern and Gary Evans of Public Works Department met to discuss the upcoming project for gates 9 and 11. Work on this project will be done this year. The Governor signed the finding for this project in February. Since this is a safety enhancement project based on the action items contained in the report from the FAA Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) the FAA has considered it a priority. Since the release of AIP funds has been piecemeal, FAA has allocated discretionary funds so this project can be completed. The conceptual drawings were presented for the Commission to review. This design should eliminate the problem of piggy backing into airport grounds. The 2010 State Aviation Conference will take place at the Country Springs Hotel the week of May 1st. The Request for Proposal for grass cutting services will be going out soon; the final drawings are being made for this.

Mr. Stanich reviewed the traffic and fuel reports. The traffic was down due to weather conditions and the fuel situation seems to be stabilizing.

Mr. Markano said he received some very nice comments from the Quad pilots regarding airfield snow removal and a Falcon aircraft pilot was very appreciative to be able to depart the airport after the snowfall. The new snow removal contractor is doing a great job; both Mr. Markano and Mr. Stanich have been working with them on this.

Comment/correspondence – None

Chairman's report – None

Future Commission agenda items – Evening Commission meetings, Airport Marketing Plan, Request for Proposal of grass cutting services at the airport, Airport's 75th Anniversary Event, and B17 Airport Event.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Falstad with a second by Vice-chairman Bluemke. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Next Regular Commission Meeting: April 14, 2010.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Crowley
Chairman
March 10, 2010